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Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
333 SW 1st Ave, Portland, OR 97208

OCT 12 2007

Dear BLM,

I am very concerned about the new proposed Western Oregon Plan Revision and the direction the Bush Administration would like to take it. When you manage 2.6 million acres of forest land and there is a potential un-doing of all the protections we have in place for those lands it is a huge consideration.

As a Forest Service worker in the 1970's, I have seen in the past the effects of the destruction logging without environmentally protective parameters can have. Science points to the fact that logging has adverse affects on the commercial fish industry, leads to water pollution from sediment and practices of spraying poisonous herbicides into the watersheds, disrupts wildlife habitat sometimes causing extinction, creates flooding and severe erosion control situations. I find it very disconcerting that a few people, with the power in their hands, are able to reverse the protections to our environment that we have struggled for for so many years and carefully gotten into place.

I have seen forest units logged right up to and into the stream beds. The Pacific Northwest is a place where it is common for many inches of rain to fall in one downfall. The destruction of the soil and vegetation caused by logging can cause a perfect environment for the waters to spread and move quickly therefore causing extreme erosion. The released soils then travel downstream into the salmon bed habitat where it covers their spawning grounds preventing them from successful regeneration. Removal of trees and vegetation near stream beds can cause the waters to warm and disrupt the aquatic habitat for many species.

I'm no Tree Hugger. I do however believe the environmentalists, mostly idealistic young people, people with a dream, love our environment and have a strong intention to preserve it as it is, have been able to make a change by making the noise they have. If that's what it takes to get the government to place values of environment over the values of money then so be it. I will join in the persistence for the preservation of our planet as we know it. The value of what we can learn from nature, what we don't know about nature that we have yet to learn, and our impact on it are all very important aspects of world that I think is beginning to spin out of control. Will we just take the ride and leave future generations the garbage heap we have left in the path of destruction created by the competition for the almighty dollar? This is sad....

We need a forest policy that protects and regulates our public lands in an effort to sustain forest economy for years to come, protected and sustainable rather than squandered for political gain and campaign money. I do believe logging is a renewable resource but not if you haul it all in at once and leave the lands bare and raped tossing concern for the impact on habitat. Sure it recovers but it will probably never get back to what the original forests were. We already hardly have an idea of what the original landscape of our country was before we began stripping it of resources such as lumber. Looking at other countries and other parts of our own country I see that this approach has left the landscape depleted.

As a person who lives in the forest area, walks in the forest, rides horses in the forest, and enjoys and needs the opportunity to hear the silence and serenity of the the forest I am alarmed by the unconscious decisions a few people who live in the city can have about the importance of preserving this natural wonder. I am also opposed to opening the lands to OHV due to the noise and erosion that has an adverse affect on this peaceful environment. I live out in the country to get away from all the noise and destruction not to hear noisy ATVs running up and down the road outside my house. Where will one go to get away from it all?

Take a vacation in our forest. Get on the ground instead of flying over and making huge decisions about policy by looking down on it all from an airplane. Take a look at how many rural landowners would be affected by these radical policy implementations.

If money continues to rule our values our world will shortly become destroyed for future generations.

Sincerely,

Patricia Watterson
19145 Upper Cow Creek Rd
Astoria, OR 97103